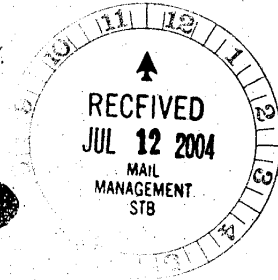


211553

July 11, 2004

Mr. Roger Nober, Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
1925 Kay Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



TRANSMITTED VIA FAX 1-202-565-9013

Re: Canadian National/Wisconsin Central LTD Abandonment in Ozaukee, Sheboygan and
Manitowoc Counties, Wisconsin
Docket # AB-303 (SUB-NO.27)

Dear Chairman Nober:

I write to you as president of Random Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. Our organization is dedicated to promoting economic development as well as a better quality of life for the people of northern Ozaukee County and southwestern Sheboygan County.

Our organization has been actively promoting efforts to save the railroad which passes through our community.

We hosted a business leaders forum in April, 2004 which was attended by not only business leaders from our community but officials from Wisconsin and Southern Railroad and officials from Ozaukee County and Sheboygan County. That meeting indicated a very strong interest in preserving the economic development potential which could come from a reliable and foreseeable rail service. Two of our members recently spoke at a meeting hosted in June by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. That meeting was attended by well over 140 people.

I do respectfully request that the Surface Transportation Board conduct oral hearings here in Wisconsin for purposes of permitting business and community leaders the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the above-referenced proposed abandonment. Based upon the two meetings already held, we believe there would be a huge turnout of spokespersons and that much valuable information could be obtained by the conduct of such oral hearings. Our organization would be happy to assist in arranging for facilities and other logistics necessary for the conduct of such oral hearings.

Respectfully submitted,

James Benson
President
EJR:keb

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cc: Honorable Governor James Doyle
Mary E. Panzer, State Senator
Joe Leibham, State Senator
Daniel R. LeMahieu, State Representative
Mr. Robert Brooks, Ozaukee County Chair
Mr. William Goehring, Sheboygan County Chair
Mr. Vernon Williams, Secretary via fax 1-202-565-9019
Honorable Thomas E. Petri via fax 1-202-225-2356
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